

2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR IMPACT REPORT

REGIONAL REACH



5,430

students from **66** high schools and **246** colleges are closer to their goal of a college degree

100% students from under-invested communities

81% students of color²

90% first-generation college students

COLLEGE ACCESS



250

high school students attended campus visits at 25+ colleges and universities



85% applied to college¹



98% admitted to college¹



84% enrolled in college³

COLLEGE SUCCESS



92% persisted from first-to-secondyear in college⁴

461 bachelor degrees earned¹

¹ As of fall 2021.

² Of students served during the 2021-2022 school year who reported race/ethnicity; this represents those who identified as Black/African/African-American, Hispanic/Latinx, Asian/Pacific Islander, American Indian/Native Alaskan or Multiracial.

 $^{^{\}rm 3}\,$ As of fall 2021, to any degree-granting institution.

⁴ 2021-2022 school year; represents fall-to-fall enrollment to any degree-granting institution.

Thank you for your support

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Thanks to your continued support and partnership, together we are empowering students from underinvested communities throughout Minnesota to achieve their dream of a college degree. Your generous support has helped us provide the evidence-based coaching and resources students need to become college graduates.

Here's what you helped Minnesota students accomplish during the 2021-22 school year:

Pandemic Response with Direct Student Aid

COVID-19 caused the greatest disruption to the educational system in history. During this prolonged time of crisis, we prioritized our core mission and found ways to help students enroll in, and persist through, college even as they faced additional or compounded barriers. We significantly expanded our direct aid program, which, provided emergency funding for expenses such as housing, transportation, computer repair, and unexpected school fees, helping more students stay in college and focus on their education.

To date, 139 students have been awarded more than \$225,000 for expenses that would have otherwise threatened their continued enrollment.

Career Readiness

In 2021, we launched a career exploration workshop series for high school and college students. These virtual sessions were designed to: increase career awareness and understanding; offer practical tips and tools to prepare for the workplace; support alignment of professional interests with college and major selection; and connect students with professional networks. Community partners from a variety of fields shared their own professional journeys with College Possible students during this workshop series.

Community Leaders Initiative

While College Possible students have demonstrated remarkable resilience throughout the pandemic, the last two years have been very isolating, making it even tougher for students to build a sense of belonging and community among their college peers.

We created the Community Leaders Initiative to provide a broader system of social connection on campus to mitigate this isolation and support better student persistence. Community Leaders are College Possible students themselves in their junior or senior year. They plan social gatherings, keep students engaged and informed, and serve as the "go to" person on campus for questions. Not only does their work support their fellow College Possible students, it also builds their skills, judgment, and maturity, adding marketable skills to their resume and preparing them for the workforce. We now have nine Community Leaders on four campuses at Minnesota partner schools, and the program is growing.

I knew that I wanted and needed to go to college, I just didn't know the steps to take. College Possible has shown me how to take those steps and where it all starts.

India, University of Minnesota '21





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